



THE CONVENTION COURIER 2007

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Convention Connection

"Thanks to Byron Davis for an enthusiastic, motivational and enjoyable breakout session at today's Diversity Workshop!"
- Unsigned

If you have a message for another delegate that you'd like included in tomorrow's *Convention Courier*, please submit it to Jamie Fabos at jfabos@usaswimming.org or leave it in an envelope at the hotel's front desk by 5 p.m. tomorrow. Submissions will appear in each night's *Convention Connection* on a space-available basis.

Big Idea Board Highlights

"Make more awards available to the age group swimmers to help market the sport to the younger groups. Maybe something like the "Golden Goggle Age Group Swimmer of the Year?"

"Greater access to video - especially underwater - from major events. What a great teaching tool that most coaches can't get!"

Thank you for your continued input!

Friday's Meeting Schedule

6:45am - 7:50am	Coaches Meeting
8:00am - 9:50am	Program Operations Reports Athletes Meeting Safety Challenges: CPR, First Aid, Safety for Coaches
8:00am - 10:50am	LSC Leadership Workshop
9:00am - 10:20am	Using the Internet as a Marketing Tool
9:00am - 12:00pm	International Relations Committee
10:00am - 12:00pm	Audit Committee - Business Mtg College Swimming 101
10:30am - 12:00pm	Advanced Webmaster Forum
11:00am - 12:00pm	USA Swimming Facilities Development Services The Background Screening Process
11:30am - 12:50pm	Championship Evaluation Cmte - Business Mtg
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Athletes - Board of Review Certification
1:00pm - 2:50pm	LSC General Chairs' Meeting Investment Committee Sport Science & Technology Presentations
1:00pm - 3:20pm	International Relations Committee
2:00pm - 3:20pm	Convention Education Committee - Business Mtg
2:00pm - 3:00pm	VISA-USA Swimming Practical Money Skills for Life
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Zone Meetings
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Committee Chairs' Dinner
7:00pm - 9:00pm	House of Delegates

Did You Know?

World record-holder and 2008 U.S. Olympic hopeful **Cullen Jones** nearly drowned when he was 5 years old. The future star's inner tube flipped while on a ride at an amusement park, and he was pulled from the water, unconscious. Now, Jones is turning his near-tragedy into progress. He appeared at a Newark YMCA yesterday to promote learn-to-swim, and has signed on as a spokesperson for USA Swimming's new Make a Splash initiative. Bravo!

Friday's Weather

Look for morning clouds giving way to sun in the afternoon, and a late afternoon high of 72 degrees. Overnight lows will dip into the low 50's. Sunset is at 6:40 p.m.

Thursday's Meeting Summaries

Convention Education Committee: The committee has run two of its five workshops so far: the "Let's Get Started" first timers' orientation and the panel of club coaches for "Minis to Olympians." Friday's workshops include: "Using the Internet as a Marketing and Communications Tool for your LSC/Club," "College Swimming 101," and "Advanced Webmaster Forum." Each of these workshops offers great materials and/or suggestions to take back to constituents at home.

Risk Management Workshop: An overview of the USA Swimming insurance coverage was provided and the importance of reporting all injuries and accidents by completing a Report of Occurrence form was stressed. John Peterson with Risk Management Services presented a summary of Conselman Study findings. The newly-revised Safety Training for Swim Coaches program will become effective Sept. 28. Connie Harvey from the American Red Cross explained the program and its incorporated changes. USA Swimming will disseminate information about the changes to the membership.

Rules and Regulations Committee: The Committee discussed proposed legislation that will come before the House of Delegates. Chair Bruce Stratton provided information on some of the rules interpretations that have been made over the past year. There was considerable discussion about the combining of USA Swimming and U.S. Masters Swimming meets. The motion was made to eliminate the requirement for a locker room monitor and this matter will be referred to USSIC for further discussion. John Morse provided a report from the LSC Bylaws Task Force which recommended that the USA Swimming rulebook be amended to mandate 20% athlete membership on the LSC Board of Review and on all LSC committees. The work of this task force is ongoing.

Officials Committee: The officials tracking system will go "live" next week. A training session for evaluators is planned for 2008. The updated "Officiating Swimming" DVD and the new "Starter" DVD are available for sale through USA Swimming. Each DVD is \$15. An officials' training clinic is scheduled for October 2007 in St. Louis, where 70 participants are expected. Carol Zaleski provided an update on the testing with underwater video replay. The following have been nominated by USA Swimming to work at the Olympic Games: John Wilson (starter); Mike Saltzstein (judge) and John Kinney (open water).

Disability Committee Business Meeting: A request was submitted that the U.S. Paralympics U.S. Open Meet at the University of Maryland be recognized as the qualifying meet for the USA Swimming Academic All American Award Recognition. This will be brought before the Board of Directors on Sunday. The Committee will meet at a neutral location in 2008 for a midterm meeting with conference calls to take place four other times. There will be a Disability Chairs workshop in 2009 and a budget request for the event. The committee will review and update the current Disability Brochures on usaswimming.org. Twenty-four swimmers with disabilities took part in the first USA Swimming Disability Internet Meet with results coming out in October. There were 32 USA Swimming sanctioned meets that reported 90 swimmers with disabilities participating as part of the Disability Reward Program.

Disability Committee Workshop: The panel of Shannon Gillespy, Don Watkins, Erin Popovich, Jarrett Perry and Jack Dowling presented "Everything you need to know about Disability Swimming." Topics included:

- * How to coach athletes with a disability
- * The 2004 Paralympic Games experience in Athens
- * Expectations of USA Swimming, Paralympic program, Special Olympic program and USA Deaf program
- * Common sense and deck expectations for officials
- * USA Swimming Rule Book blue section- Art. 105
- * Advantages for a program including athletes with disabilities
- * Practice and meet participation suggestions for parents of children with disabilities